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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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June 30, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Prominent Argentine Senator Writes to the President

Senator Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen has written to the President thanking him for the United States efforts to secure his release from prison. Solari Yrigoyen writes that he was held for nine months without charges, tortured, and finally expelled to Venezuela. A suggested reply for signature by a member of the White House staff is attached.

Solari Yrigoyen is in his early forties and has dedicated much of his life to democratic and humanitarian ideals. He was a member of the Argentine Senate from 1973 until 1976, when the military assumed power. He had already been the victim of two attempts on his life before the 1976 coup. It appears that the Senator's criticism of government counterterrorism led rightists under the Peronistas to attack him twice and was the principal reason for his abduction by the Argentine security forces in August 1976. He was expelled in May 1977.

During his week-long stay in Washington, he has met with the Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary Todman, Human Rights Coordinator Derian - to whom he delivered his letter to the President - and with Senators Kennedy and Church. He has expressed very strong support for the Administration's policy, noting the people of Latin America now feel that the United States is on the side of democracy rather than military dictatorships.

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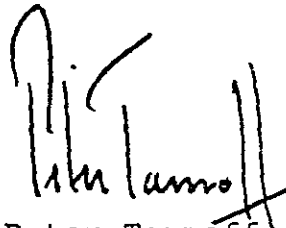
ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

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He is refraining from public commentary because his children are still in Argentina. He hopes they will be able to leave untroubled. If not, we will try to do what we can to persuade the Argentine government on humanitarian grounds that the Solari Yrigoyen family should be reunited.



Peter Tarnoff
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Suggested Reply:

JR
Drafted: ARA/ECA:FERondon:jc
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Clearances: ARA/ECA:RWZimmermann (draft) *HR*
ARA:FDevine *J.J.S.*
D/HA:MSchneider (draft) *HR*

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